

Message Text

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APPROVED BY EUR R D VINE
EUR/RPE A C ALBRECHT
H D J BENNET
EB A WATSON (SUBS)
E E JOHNSTON
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TO AMEMBASSY PARIS

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USOECD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCON, OECD

SUBJECT: OECD CONTACTS WITH MEMBER GOVERNMENTS'
PARLIAMENTS

REF: PARIS 21412

1. FOLLOWING COMMENTS ARE PRELIMINARY STATE DEPARTMENT
REACTIONS TO OECD SECRETARY GENERAL VAN LENNEP'S PROPOSAL
FOR INCREASED OECD CONTACTS WITH PARLIAMENTS OF MEMBER
GOVERNMENTS.

2. WE AGREE THAT INCREASED OECD CONTACT WITH SELECTED
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MEMBER STATE PARLIAMENTARIANS WOULD BE USEFUL. ISSUE
ORIENTED MEETINGS ON AD HOC BASIS WOULD BE PREFERRED
FORMAT, WITH PARTICIPATION BY INVITATION. IN US CASE,
INVITATIONS SHOULD BE EXTENDED THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT
FOR A SPECIFIC NUMBER OF PARLIAMENTARIANS. WE IN TURN
WOULD ASK SENATE AND HOUSE LEADERSHIP TO DO THE ACTUAL
SELECTION. SPECIFIC ISSUES SHOULD BE CHOSEN TO ENSURE

THAT AS MANY DIFFERENT U.S. SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES AS POSSIBLE HAVE A CHANCE TO BECOME FAMILIAR WITH THE SUBSTANTIVE WORK BEING CARRIED OUT BY OECD. THE NUMBER OF U.S. PARTICIPANTS AT ANY SINGLE MEETING, HOWEVER, MUST NECESSARILY BE LIMITED. WE SHARE VIEWS EXPRESSED PARA (4)

REFTEL THAT FORMAL STANDING PARLIAMENTARY BODY FOR OECD WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE PRODUCTIVE AND SHOULD BE AVOIDED.

3. WE WOULD PREFER THAT SUCH MEETINGS NOT BE CHARACTERIZED AS "ADVISORY" IN NATURE. SUCH LABEL MIGHT BE MISCONSTRUED AND UNNECESSARILY RAISE QUESTIONS ABOUT POLICY-MAKING ROLE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS.

4. WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE FIRST AD HOC MEETING LATE THIS FALL. WE WOULD LIKE TO GIVE ADDITIONAL THOUGHT TO A TOPIC FOR THIS MEETING. REGARDLESS OF HOW MEETINGS ARE STRUCTURED, CONGRESSIONAL PARTICIPANTS WILL NEED TO HAVE ANY PAPERS, WHICH SECRETARIAT PREPARED FOR MEETING, WELL IN ADVANCE.

5. WE HAVE NOT YET APPROACHED CONGRESSIONAL LEADERSHIP ON THIS MATTER. VAN LENNEP, HOWEVER, DISCUSSED CONCEPT WITH REPRESENTATIVE GROUP OF SENATE AND HOUSE STAFFERS IN APRIL AND RECEIVED A POSITIVE REACTION.

CHRISTOPHER

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